

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and support for the changes may be found, for example, in Figures 1A, 1B and 2. New claims 8-11 have been added.

The Office Action includes an objection to claim 1 regarding a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner that renders the objection moot, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the *Matsumoto et al.* publication (JP 9-178974). Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 are not anticipated by the *Matsumoto et al.* publication.

Claim 1 recites a laser diode module comprising a laser diode, a lens provided on an optical path of a laser beam emitted by the laser diode, a polarizer provided on an optical path of the laser beam transmitted by the lens, and an optical fiber provided at a location to which the laser beam transmitted by the polarizer is optimally coupled. The polarizer is angled so that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through said polarizer is rotated about an optical path of the laser beam passing through the polarizer relative to a direction of polarization of the laser beam transmitted by said lens. An example is illustrated in Figures 1A, 1B and 2 of the present application, where it can be seen in Figure 2 that the direction of polarization permitted to pass through the polarizer 4a is rotated about an optical path of the laser beam passing through the polarizer 4a relative

to the direction of polarization of the laser beam entering the polarizer 4a. Of course, claim 1 is not intended to be limited by the example illustrated in Figures 1A, 1B and 2.

In contrast, the *Matsumoto et al.* publication does not disclose a polarizer angled such that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through the polarizer is rotated about an optical path of a laser beam passing through the polarizer relative to a direction of polarization of the laser beam transmitted by a lens. Rather, the *Matsumoto et al.* publication discloses leaning a polarizer 11 such that its plane of incidence 11a is leaned at an angle relative to a center line X such that light reflected from the plane of incidence 11a does not return to the light emitting device 20 (see paragraphs 20 and 21 of the translation provided by the Office). The *Matsumoto et al.* publication contains no disclosure of a polarizer angled such that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through the polarizer is rotated about an optical path of a laser beam passing through the polarizer relative to a direction of polarization of the laser beam transmitted by a lens as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 is not anticipated by the *Matsumoto et al.* publication for at least this reason. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and these claims are therefore allowable at least by virtue of dependency. Allowance of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended and recites a laser diode module comprising, *inter alia*, an optical isolator provided on an optical path of the laser beam transmitted by the lens and including a polarizer, a rotator and an analyzer. The optical isolator is placed so that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through said polarizer of the optical isolator is rotated about an optical path of the laser beam passing through the polarizer relative to a

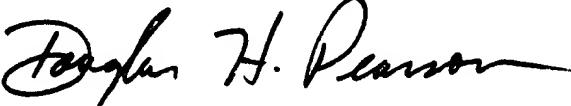
direction of polarization of the laser beam from said laser diode. Accordingly, similar distinctions between the subject matter recited and claim 4 and that disclosed in the *Matsumoto et al.* publication exists as have already been described above with regard to claim 1. Claim 4 is not anticipated by the *Matsumoto et al.* publication for at least this reason. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 4 is respectfully requested. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4 and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of dependency. Allowance of claims 5 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11 have been added herein to round out the scope of protection being sought. Independent claim 8 is allowable over the *Matsumoto et al.* publication for reasons similar to those set forth above. Dependent claims 9, 10 and 11 are allowable at least by virtue of dependency upon claims 1, 4 and 8, respectively. Claims 9-11 also recite subject matter not disclosed in the *Matsumoto et al.* publication, given that it is apparent from Figure 1 therein that the polarizer 11 is not oriented perpendicular to an optical axis of the laser module illustrated therein. Claims 9-11 are allowable at least for this additional reason. Allowance of claims 8-11 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection and rejections of record are respectfully requested so that the present application may pass to issuance. Should there be any questions remaining in connection with this application, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Douglas H. Pearson
Registration No. 47,851

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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Attachment to Amendment dated February 25, 2003

Marked-up Claims 1 and 4

1. (Amended) A laser diode module comprising:

a laser diode;

a lens provided on an optical path of a laser beam emitted by said laser diode;

a polarizer provided on an optical path of the laser beam transmitted by said lens;

and

an optical fiber provided at a location to which the laser beam transmitted by said polarizer is optimally coupled, wherein

 said polarizer is angled so that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through
 said polarizer is [angled against] rotated about an optical path of the laser beam passing
through the polarizer relative to a direction of polarization of the laser beam transmitted by
 said lens.

4. (Amended) A laser diode module comprising:

a laser diode;

a lens provided on an optical path of a laser beam emitted by said laser diode;

an optical isolator provided on an optical path of the laser beam transmitted by said
 lens and including a polarizer, a rotator and an analyzer; and

 an optical fiber provided at a location to which the laser beam transmitted by said
 optical isolator is optimally coupled, wherein

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Marked-up Claims 1 and 4

said optical isolator is placed so that a direction of polarization permitted to pass through said polarizer of the optical isolator is [angled against] rotated about an optical path of the laser beam passing through the polarizer relative to a direction of polarization of the laser beam from said laser diode.